

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTICE!

Environmental fieldwork planned at Durham Meadows Superfund Site

June 2010

EPA would like to provide the neighborhood near the former location of the Merriam Manufacturing Company notice of additional soil sampling work at and near that location this June. This work will supplement previous investigative work done on the property.

The selected cleanup remedy for the Merriam Manufacturing Company Study Area includes soil excavation and off-site disposal to address risks to human health from contamination in surface soil and to address source contamination at depth. In 2006 and in subsequent years, EPA collected additional surface and sub-surface soil samples at Merriam Manufacturing to more fully define the nature and extent of contamination on the property, and allow for a better design of the soil excavation component of the remedy.

Sampling results have shown that most soil samples contain unexpected levels of total and leachable lead. EPA, in consultation with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CT DEP), has continued to conduct additional investigations to determine how much of the lead may require excavation, as well as determine the outer horizontal and vertical boundary of lead and other contaminants in soil that may require excavation.

Site clearing will occur the week of June 7. Beginning the week of June 14, EPA will collect surface and subsurface soil on the Merriam Manufacturing Company and on surrounding parcels. Collection of subsurface soil samples involves drilling into the ground, which is noisy but only lasts for short periods of time. Soil sampling will occur between 7:00 am and 7:00 pm each day.

Town residents can expect to see EPA contractor vehicles within the fenced portion of the Merriam Manufacturing property and may see EPA contractor vehicles traveling in the neighborhood. EPA expects that all field investigations will be completed within two weeks or less.

Additional Activities

EPA continues to work with the Durham Manufacturing Company on pre-design work for the remedy at that location. The Town of Durham is currently working with state and federal agencies, as well as local officials, regarding the design of an alternate water supply to the area. Filtering and monitoring of affected residential drinking water wells in the area continues under State order. Currently, Durham Manufacturing Company continues to perform this work at homes in its area. The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection is performing this work for the homes in the Merriam Manufacturing Company area.

For more information:

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Information Repository: Durham Public Library, 7 Maple Avenue, Durham, CT 06422-2112.
EPA New England website for Durham Meadows: www.epa.gov/ne/superfund/sites/durham